

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7456

BILL NUMBER: SB 318

NOTE PREPARED: Apr 8, 2003

BILL AMENDED: Jan 28, 2003

SUBJECT: Miscellaneous election law matters.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Hershman

FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Klinker

BILL STATUS: As Passed - House

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) The bill redefines the length of the chute. The bill requires a candidate to indicate on a declaration of candidacy which option the candidate is using to determine party affiliation. The bill authorizes a county to use an electronic voting system for voting by absentee ballot in the office of the circuit court clerk.

Effective Date: July 1, 2003.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) *Summary:* Under the bill, State Forms CAN-2 and CAN-42 would have to be revised to reflect the option a candidate claims party affiliation under current law. The expenditures required could be absorbed within the Indiana Election Division's budget.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (Revised) *Summary:* Under the bill, counties would have the option via ordinance to use Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) voting systems for absentee ballot voting. The provision could allow counties that already employ DRE machines for voting to reduce expenditures. Savings would occur from reduced production of paper ballots and secrecy envelopes to tabulate absentee votes. Additionally the measure would allow county clerks with DRE machines a reduction in administrative time, as a voting card for a DRE machine would require less time to program than current methods for tabulating absentee votes.

One county reported that a savings of approximately \$480 to \$640 per election just from the elimination of paper ballots would occur with conversion to DRE machines to tabulate absentee votes. The above estimate

is based on approximately 1,500 - 2,000 paper ballots commercially printed at \$0.32 per ballot per election.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Election Division

Local Agencies Affected: Counties

Information Sources: Indiana Election Division; Linda Williams, Circuit Court Clerk of Tippecanoe County, 765-423-9326.

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